



Wisconsin ATV Association,
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Public Hearing

8/13/09

Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources

Testimony provided by Randy Harden & Rob McConnell of the Wisconsin ATV Association

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Chair - Senator Jim Holperin

Senators' Jim Sullivan, Jeff Plale, Dave Hansen, Joe Leibham, Neal Kedzie, Glenn Grothman

Re: SB 241 - Relating to modifying the definition of an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)

Our Wisconsin ATV Association's highest priority is what's in the best interest of the Wisconsin ATV registration program. At the same time our organization and program management partners, in conjunction with ATV rider's in general, continue to play a vital role in providing economic tourism dollars into Wisconsin's businesses that cater to ATV trail traffic.

The three provisions inside this bill make subtle but important changes to our state ATV statutes, thus allowing Wisconsin to become more consistent with surrounding state's that are also competing to attract ATV tourism traffic.

There are also ramifications created by what have become technology improvements to the ATV design and manufacturing to provide for a better end product. Our original state statutes, created back in the mid-1980's are simply in need of updating. This bill will allow our Wisconsin ATV citizens, our retail dealership businesses, and our tourism guests alike to be in compliance with state laws that more closely resemble those in our neighboring states. Especially in these economic times, it is vital to remedy what has become an unfair situation for those who wish to take advantage of the latest engineering improvements to a vastly different ATV landscape from what it was 20 + years ago!

Our statewide organization had numerous discussions and workshops on this topic late last year. In April of this year at our annual meeting, the club leaders and members from around the state voted overwhelmingly to support this language now known as SB 241.

Thank you for your considerations.



Wisconsin County Forests Association

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**WCFA Testimony presented by Jane Severt for
August 13, 2009 Public Hearing of the
Senate Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources**

2009 Senate Bill 241

Chair Holperin and members of the Senate Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources:

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on 2009 SB 241. My name is Jane Severt and I serve as the Executive Director for the Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA). WCFA represents the 29 counties in Wisconsin with county forest lands established under state statutes §28.10 & 28.11. Collectively these 29 counties manage nearly 2.4 million acres of forests, the largest public land base in Wisconsin.

Many County Forest Administrators or members of their staff serve as ATV trail coordinators in their respective counties. County Forestry Departments provide the majority of ATV trail miles in our state. For the most part, county ATV trail coordinators are supportive of the ATV definition changes contained in SB 241.

Only one County Forest Administrator has expressed serious concerns with the proposed changes. The basis for these concerns is the fact that this particular county has approximately 25 gates with cemented posts designed to accommodate ATVs with a 48" width. Availability of funds for retrofitting these gates to accommodate the extra width proposed in SB 241 is an issue.

In addition, ATV Trail Coordinators are hopeful that this increase in width will not become a frequent occurrence. They would like some assurance that the WI definition of an ATV will not continually change based on manufacturers specification but rather that manufacturers will remain sensitive and receptive to the opinions of the agencies building and maintaining the ATV trail systems in Wisconsin.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. For the record; at this time WCFA supports SB 241 with the exception of the aforementioned county.